MR. V. T. CHACKO (*Muvattupuzha I*): May I know whether there is any rule fixing the period during which a Medical Officer should be in a particular place?

MR. JAMES SIMPSON (*Darbar Physician*): There is no such rule.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): May I know whether during hospital hours Medical Officers are allowed to visit patients outside the hospitals?

MR. JAMES SIMPSON (*Darbar Physician*): They can do so in cases of emergency but must inform the Darbar Physician's office of the same.

Remuneration to Government Doctors.

281. ***MR. P. C. KURIYAN** (*Kottayam I*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they have put up any notice in the various hospitals in the State forbidding patients to pay any remuneration to Government doctors for attending patients in the hospitals;

(*b*) if so, what were the causes that led the Government or the Darbar Physician to put up such notices; and

(*c*) what provision Government have made to see that doctors do not abuse this direction?

MR. JAMES SIMPSON (*Darbar Physician*): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) To remove a misunderstanding among the public that they have to pay for medicines and treatment in the Government medical institutions.

(*c*) Enquiry is being made at the time of visits to the different stations if there is any complaint regarding the matter.

Treatment of patients.

282. ***MR. P. C. KURIYAN** (*Kottayam I*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether there is any rule at present preventing a doctor from seeing the patients or their relations at the doctor's house; and

(*b*) whether they are aware that most of the doctors refuse to treat patients in the hospitals who do not visit doctors at their residences?

MR. JAMES SIMPSON (*Darbar Physician*): (*a*) No such rule.

(*b*) Not aware.

Ophthalmic Hospitals.

283 ***MR. P. C. KURIYAN** (*Kottayam I*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the number of Ophthalmic Hospitals in the State; and

(*b*) whether Kottayam has got one?

MR. JAMES SIMPSON (*Darbar Physician*): (*a*) There is only one Ophthalmic Hospital in the State.

(*b*) Kottayam has no Ophthalmic Hospital. One of the Sub Assistant Surgeons attached to the District Hospital has had training in the Trivandrum Ophthalmic Hospital.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly